

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 3289 – SB 3350

April 16, 2012

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (016293, 016441): Deletes Section 2 and Section 4 of the original bill relating to supplemental registrations and stand alone municipal elections. Amends Section 7 of the original bill and changes, from 20 days to 15 days, the time an election commission has to review a petition initiated through charter provision. Deletes Section 15 of the original bill relating to the number of registered voters' signatures required on a sales tax petition. Revises various provisions of election law. Reduces, from four hours to two hours, the length of time the election commission office must conduct a supplemental voter registration drive at the high schools. Removes the notice provision for supplemental voter registration drives. Authorizes a county election commission to accept a change of address within the county by fax. Increases the size of the precinct from 5,000 registered voters to 6,000 registered voters. Authorizes the county election commission to begin training election officials immediately after appointment. Provides additional days for the county election commission office to review the revisions on a filed petition dealing with a city charter. Authorizes the county election commission office to designate another location instead of the election commission office for early voting. Updates language regarding the procedures for comparing the vote totals after the election. Authorizes any municipality with a population of less than 5,000 to use paper ballots instead of voting machines when there is no opposition on the ballot. Requires the political parties to notify the county election commission 90 days instead of 60 days before the qualifying deadline if the party wishes to nominate by primary election. The bill clarifies two qualifying deadlines.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Decrease Local Expenditures – \$25,500/One-Time/FY12-13
\$16,000/ FY12-13
\$87,900/FY13-14 and Every Two Years
\$17,500/FY14-15 and Every Two Years

Other Fiscal Impact – According to the Coordinator of Elections, certain municipalities may opt to use paper ballots rather than electronic voting machines. This savings will be realized only if the county has a population of less than 5,000 and there is no opposition on the ballot. Eligible municipalities could save an estimated \$2,000 and \$4,000 per election. Since the number of municipalities that will meet these criteria and choose to use paper ballots cannot be determined, the decrease in local expenditures for the use of paper ballots cannot be quantified.

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FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Decrease Local Expenditures – \$25,500/One-Time/FY12-13

Other Fiscal Impact – According to the Coordinator of Elections, certain municipalities may opt to use paper ballots rather than electronic voting machines. This savings will be realized only if the county has a population of less than 5,000 and there is no opposition on the ballot. Eligible municipalities could save an estimated \$2,000 and \$4,000 per election. Since the number of municipalities that will meet these criteria and choose to use paper ballots cannot be determined, the decrease in local expenditures for the use of paper ballots cannot be quantified.

Assumptions applied to amendments:

- Reinstates language in Tenn. Code Ann. § 67-6-707(2) to require a sales tax petition be signed by 10 percent of the total number of registered voters in the taxing jurisdiction on the date the petition is filed. According to the Coordinator of Elections, the impact to local governments will be not significant.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, counties surveyed estimated a one-time decrease in local expenditures by increasing the size of the precincts from 5,000 registered voters to 6,000 registered voters. According to this survey, the one-time decrease in local expenditures will be \$25,500.
- Under the bill, certain municipalities can choose to use a paper ballot rather than a voting machine. According to the Coordinator of Elections, this could save the particular municipality between \$2,000 and \$4,000 per election. However, this savings will only be realized if the municipality has a population of less than 5,000 and there is no opposition on the ballot. There are approximately 13 counties with approximately 16 municipalities that could qualify under certain circumstances. However, any savings cannot be determined since the number of cities that would choose to use paper ballots instead of voting machines cannot be quantified.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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